

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A toner composition comprising:

toner particles; and

an external additive located on the surface of the toner particles and comprising Si,

wherein the toner composition satisfies the following relationship:

$$(\text{PSi2p (1 min)} - \text{PSi2p (30 min)}) \leq 0.8 \text{ eV}$$

wherein PSi2p (1 min) represents a position of a Si2p peak of the Si element of the toner composition when the toner composition is subjected to an X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy analysis after the toner composition is mixed with a carrier for 1 minute using a TURBULA SHAKER MIXER T2F-10B-50A, manufactured by Willy A. Bachofen AG (mixer) ~~mixer~~ at a revolution of 20 rpm, and PSi2p (30 min) represents a position of a Si2p peak of the Si element of the toner composition when the toner composition is subjected to the X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy analysis after the toner composition is mixed with the carrier for 30 minutes using the mixer at a revolution of 20 rpm,

the carrier being coated with a material such that any portions of the coated material have ~~having~~ a thickness in a range of approximately 75% to 125% of an average thickness of the carrier coating.

Claim 2 (Original): The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein the Si2p peak at the position PSi2p (30 min) has a half width not less than 1.20 times that of the Si2p peak at the position PSi2p (1 min).

Claim 3 (Original): The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein electrons are shared by the external additive and the toner particles.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein when the toner composition is used for a developing device which includes a toner replenishing section configured to replenish the toner composition, a mixing section having a two-axis screw and configured to mix the carrier and the toner composition supplied from the toner replenishing section to prepare a developer, a developing sleeve configured to bear the developer on the surface thereof to adhere the toner composition to an electrostatic latent image on an image bearer, and a regulating member configured to regulate flow of the developer to the developing sleeve, the replenished toner composition has substantially a same charge quantity as that of the toner composition which previously exists in the mixing section when the replenished toner composition and the previously existing toner composition reach the regulating member.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The toner composition according to Claim 4, wherein the replenished toner composition has a charge quantity not less than 0.7 times that of the previously existing toner composition when the replenished toner composition and the previously existing toner composition reach the regulating member.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A two component developer comprising:

a carrier; and

a toner composition comprising:

toner particles; and

an external additive located on the surface of the toner particles and comprising Si,

wherein the toner composition satisfies the following relationship:

$$(\text{PSi2p (1 min)} - \text{PSi2p (30 min)}) \leq 0.8 \text{ eV}$$

wherein PSi2p (1 min) represents a position of a Si2p peak of the Si element of the toner composition when the toner composition is subjected to an X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy analysis after the toner composition is mixed with a carrier for 1 minute using a TURBULA SHAKER MIXER T2F-10B-50A,
manufactured by Willy A. Bachofen AG (mixer) mixer at a revolution of 20 rpm, and PSi2p (30 min) represents a position of a Si2p peak of the Si element of the toner composition when the toner composition is subjected to the X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy analysis after the toner composition is mixed with the carrier for 30 minutes using the mixer at a revolution of 20 rpm,

wherein the carrier is coated with a material, and

wherein any portions of the material located on the carrier have a thickness in a range of from 75 % to 125 % of an average thickness thereof.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A method for developing an electrostatic latent image, comprising:
replenishing a toner from a replenishing section;
mixing a carrier and the toner in a mixing section having a two-axis screw to prepare a developer,
feeding the developer toward a developing sleeve;
regulating flow of the developer to the developing sleeve with a regulating member;
and

developing the electrostatic latent image with the toner in the developer on the developing sleeve,

wherein the toner is the toner composition according to Claim 1.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 8, wherein the Si2p peak at the position P_{Si2p} (30 min) has a half width not less than 1.20 times that of the Si2p peak at the position P_{Si2p} (1 min).

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 8, wherein electrons are shared by the external additive and the toner particles.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 8, wherein the replenished toner has substantially a same charge quantity as that of the toner which previously exists in the mixing section when the replenished toner and the toner previously existing in the mixing section reach the regulating member.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The method according to Claim 11, wherein the replenished toner has a charge quantity not less than 0.7 times that of the toner previously existing in the mixing section when the replenished toner and the previously existing toner reach the regulating member.

Claims 13-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The toner composition according to Claim 5, wherein the regulating member includes a doctor blade [[and]] or a doctor roller.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The toner composition according to Claim 4, wherein the regulating member includes a doctor blade ~~[[and]]~~ or a doctor roller.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The toner composition according to Claim 19, wherein the replenished toner composition has a charge quantity not less than 0.7 times that of the previously existing toner composition when the replenished toner composition and the previously existing toner composition reach at least one of the doctor blade and the doctor roller.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended by replacing the word “mixer” with the particular mixer described in the specification at page 12, lines 9-11. In addition, the word “mixer” has been inserted thereafter in parenthesis for purposes of shorthand. Claim 1 has further been amended to clarify the coating thickness limitation, as supported in the specification at page 10, lines 4-6. Finally, Claims 18 and 19 have been amended by changing “and” to --or--, as supported in the specification at page 15, lines 19-21.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. With entry thereof, Claims 1-6 and 18-20 will remain active; Claims 8-12 stand withdrawn from consideration.